

# THE CALEDONIAN.

BY C. M. STONE & CO.

St. Johnsbury, Vt., Friday, April 17, 1863.



**JOB PRINTING.** Every kind of printing is promptly executed at this office, in the best style and at the lowest prices. The facilities of the establishment are of the first order; good workmen are employed, and additions of type and other printing materials are constantly made to keep fully up with the times.

## Who Get Office.

We print that article by Capt House on our outside not because we believe our delegation in Congress are sinners above all others, nor because the appointment of Provost Marshals in this state is an act of injustice which has no precedent; but because there are general principles laid down which are pretended to be acknowledged but which are in fact ignored. It makes no difference if a man is honest, capable, deserving,—if he is one of the ring of wire-workers and politicians it stands about as much chance of getting office as he does of being struck by lightning. Men who have had their eyes open know how these things are done; and for an honest, deserving man, who is outside the circle of political hacks and trimmers to get an office is nothing, would be a marvel indeed.—Any one has only to look back over the appointments of the last five years to be convinced of the fact. Capt House will have the thanks of the community generally, for this very caustic expose.

## The Conduct of the War.

We would call the attention of every reader to the full abstract which we publish this week and next of the committee appointed to investigate the manner in which the army of the Potomac has been conducted.

We will not foretell the inevitable verdict which the loyal North will pass upon it.

Facts which have persistently been held back from the public are now brought forth throwing much light upon the causes of the dark days which we have experienced in our attempt as a nation to crush this rebellion. This report makes it all plain. It is a document which will be put on record against the treason and imbecility of those who have brought us to the very verge of the pit.

## The Vermont Military Hospital.

We learn from a soldier coming from Brattleboro, that Drs. Goss and Brooks, who have been ass't surgeons this winter in the hospital, have this week received orders to investigate the manner in which the army of the Potomac has been conducted. We will not foretell the inevitable verdict which the loyal North will pass upon it.

It is confidently asserted that eleven holes were broken into the side of the fort, so large as to be visible at the distance of three miles, some gaps were three feet wide, and looked as though the shot had plowed right through the wall. Two embrasures seemed almost knocked into one. If this be so we are confident that the attack will soon be renewed, and that Sumter will fall—into the hands of the Federals. Even if our iron-clads were repulsed in the first attack, as it now appears, we have cause only for regret, not despondency. They are not destroyed—scarcely damaged, save the Keokuk which was not a Monitor. Let us take heart. The harbor obstructions may yet be removed, and the largest sized Monitors steam up past the forts, and then Charleston will once more be in loyal hands. If the fortifications prove too formidable for our vessels, and the siege is abandoned, we still have fighting Joe Hooker and his splendid army to look to for great achievements; nor do we believe we shall look vain in vain at that direction.

## The Disaster to Our Cavalry.

The skirmish in which some 140 of the Vermont cavalry took part, near Drainsville, and of which brief mention was made last week, proves to have been the most disastrous of anything that has yet happened to our ill-fated cavalry. We have given a pretty full account of the affair in a letter upon the first page, but there are some other points which time develops that are of interest to the public.

Our forces seem to have started upon a wrong impression and to have followed on in the same channel until brought to their senses when too late to save themselves, to say nothing of capturing the enemy. It is seen that a force of about 35 men under Capt Flint discovered the rebels, dismounted about a barn, behind fences and hay stacks, and thinking to capture the entire party, charged down a lane upon them, when coming to the fence Capt Flint's party was obliged to halt and some of his men dismounted and remove a length of fence so that they could get at the rebels. All this time the rebels were pouring a galling fire into Capt Flint's squad, who were in close order, and admirably arranged to be cut up in the worst manner. By the time the fence was removed, Capt Flint's squad was badly used up, many of the horses that had never been under fire becoming unmanageable.

This was the time when Capt Bean, who had a reserve force of 100 men, should have come to the rescue and not only saved the attacking party but have captured the rebels. But all accounts agree that he failed to come, and some ascribe cowardice to him, saying that he told his men to save themselves. However this may be, the rebels saw the predicament in which our troops were placed, and hastily forming behind the barn (one man who was in the fight says they had a party already mounted ready for an assault) they came charging out through the gap made in the fence, and killed wounded or captured 106 of our force of 135.

This was not done in a moment. Many of our men retreated with all the speed that their horses could muster. But here they were lame again. These horses had just come in from a two days' scout, during which time the horses had not been fed, (they never feed army horses) and it did not take the rebels long to run down and capture a demoralized force mounted on half-starved horses.

All accounts agree that the officers of the attacking party acted with great bravery; but military men condemn the manner of attack. It appears to have been a great blunder, though if the attacking force had been promptly sustained by the reserves the affair would probably have been successful. One fact which went far towards completing the failure was that many of the rebels had an Union overcoat.

Lieut Hall of the cavalry writes that Mosby's force was much greater than at first reported; that it numbered as many if not more than the Federals.

## Cavalry Prisoners Exchanged.

The privates of the cavalry regiment taken near Drainsville have already been exchanged and transferred to the paroled camp at Indianapolis. The commissioners of officers are confined in the Libby prison at Richmond. By count we find there were 75 privates exchanged.

## The Sinking of the Keokuk.

The Boston Post finds CONSOLATION.—It says March 13th: "Amherst, Me., has elected a full board of Democratic town officers. Last year abolition. This magnificent triumph offsets the recent Connecticut disasters."

## Let no one deprive the Post of this crumb of comfort.

One cannot read of these many disasters to our cavalry regiment without having the conviction forced upon him that there is something radically wrong either in the regiment or in its position. We are inclined to the belief that it is not officered. It has had no less than four or five colonels in its short

## The Seventh Regiment.

The 5th regiment is now at Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa Island. The regiment moved there from Pensacola Feb. 18. What there is left of this regiment is pretty healthy now, though the swamps of Vicksburg and other southern localities have thinned off the ranks of the boys considerably. The following death occurred in this regiment during its first year of service:

Co. A, 27; Co. B, 32; Co. C, 17; Co. D, 20; Co. E, 36; Co. F, 26; Co. G, 37; Co. H, 49; Co. I, 40; Co. K, 36; total, 300.—Discharged, 140; deserted, 20; resigned 10;

transferred to regular service, 3; leaving total strength sick and well, 543, all told.

The above facts we get from Sergeant Randal.

## The Ninth Vermont.

Gen. Stannard has reported at Washington, and his regiment is at Fortress Monroe. An agreeable change for the regiment. It will doubtless improve the first opportunity to acknowledge but which are in fact ignorant. It makes no difference if a man is honest, capable, deserving,—if he is one of the ring of wire-workers and politicians it stands about as much chance of getting office as he does of being struck by lightning. Men who have had their eyes open know how these things are done; and for an honest, deserving man, who is outside the circle of political hacks and trimmers to get an office is nothing, would be a marvel indeed.—Any one has only to look back over the appointments of the last five years to be convinced of the fact. Capt House will have the thanks of the community generally, for this very caustic expose.

The order given to the commanders of the various vessels was to keep strung up the harbor until they came within one thousand yards of the forts, and then to attack, directing the fire principally against Fort Sumter. In this order the fleet moved on steadily and gallantly up towards Forts Sumter and Moultrie, the rebels withholding their fire until they got up into the harbor. The Ironsides stopped at Fort Moultrie and let go anchor, it being dangerous to take her further up on account of her drawing over fifteen feet.

At this moment there seemed to be a temporary misunderstanding, and all the iron-clads except the Weehawken and the Keokuk, gathered about the Ironsides, apparently supposing that she had grounded and needed assistance. They were, however, soon signalled to go into action. The Keokuk had turned inward until she led the line, and had advanced to within 400 yards of Sumter, against whose granite walls she hurled her many shot with all the rapidity that the energy of her brave crew could furnish.

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